

Solitude  
Carters Bridge vicinity  
Albemarle County  
Virginia

HABS No. VA-1074

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

GENERAL INFORMATION

Solitude is the name given the 169½ acre farm nestled against the western base of Carters Mountain in Albemarle County, Virginia by its current owner-occupant, Mr. Harold Sinclair. Located approximately 7 miles south of Charlottesville, Virginia on Route 20 in the vicinity of Carters Bridge on the Hardware River, the dwelling at Solitude has been inventoried by the School of Architecture, University of Virginia as part of the class in Road Surveys directed by K. Edward Lay, Professor of Architecture.

The existing character of the farm is a product of over 200 years of productive life. This character is what comprises the experiential ambience of the farm. The implant of historic endeavors and activities on the landscape has been significant and is still detectable because of a lack of modernization and the perpetuation of some of these activities by the current occupant.

Local recognition of the farm's historic value has included a feature story by the Charlottesville Daily Progress (October 23, 1977). Local recognition notwithstanding, Solitude is an endangered resource of great value. Harold Sinclair, born in the house in 1899, has maintained the buildings with great care, however, his age is increasingly an obstacle to truly effective remedial work. As a result the built features of the farm are deteriorating.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The 169½ acre farm Solitude is a part of the former 971 acre Charles Wingfield plantation of eighteenth century St. Ann's Parish, Albemarle County. A portion of the 1731 Charles Hudson patent of 540 acres, this farm was conveyed to Charles Wingfield by his mother Mary Hudson Wingfield, Charles Hudson's daughter and a resident of Hanover County, in 1762. Charles Wingfield was then living on the land.<sup>1</sup> Located at the base of the Carters Mountain portion of the great Southwest Mountain, the farm is in the vicinity of Carters Bridge on the Hardware River, one of the earliest occupied valleys of the Albemarle County portion of old Goochland County.

Inscribed in the beaded oak weatherboarding of the house at Solitude are the names "Mary Wingfield" and "Charles Wingfield" and the date "CXVII," or 1807. Charles Wingfield died in 1803 therefore the names must be those of Charles' grandchildren by his son Francis (d. 1863) who inherited "the plantation whereon I now live" (WB 4-138). Francis, whose wife's name is not known, had six children: Mary, Thomas (d. 1888), Francis, Charles M. (d. 1849), Ann, and John. John's son Alonzo, Francis' grandson, also inscribed his name on the house.<sup>2</sup>

Oral testimony from the current occupant, Mr. Harold Sinclair (b. 1899) reveals that his parents received the farm from the William J. Simms family in circa 1884 (W.B. 29-486) who in turn

had obtained the "tract of land of which the late Francis Wingfield died, seized and possessed" in 1870 (DB 65-543). Mr. Sinclair also, however, indicated that a Wingfield house, very similar to his own house at Solitude, once stood west of Route 20 across the Sowell Branch of the Hardware River not far from Solitude. This house apparently disappeared through neglect or demolition not long after the death of its last occupant James Joiner Wingfield in the early twentieth century. Charles Wingfield's wife, Rachel, was a Joiner, and it is possible that this house was the actual Charles Wingfield, Sr. homeplace and not the house at Solitude. The house at Solitude, constructed in the eighteenth century, may have co-existed with the other and provided home to Francis and his family while his father lived in the other.

Albemarle County Land Books for the years 1782-1795 reveal that Charles Wingfield, Sr., after initially receiving land from his mother, amassed 971½ acres by 1791.<sup>3</sup> By 1795, his holdings had decreased to 928 acres however the value of his lands sharply increased in 1794. Between 1782 and 1795, Charles, Sr. and his sons Charles, Jr., William, Christopher, and Joseph all are recorded with landholdings. Francis is not listed as a landholder. In his will, written in 1792, Charles identified land only generally described which his sons were to receive. He is specific regarding Francis' inheritance as the plantation itself. Woods reports that "Francis lived in the Biscuit Run Valley, at the foot of Carters Mountain" (p. 346). The demolished house, also

within the Biscuit Run Valley, existed west of Sowell's Branch of the Hardware thus putting it farther west of the house at Solitude which is in fact directly at the base of the mountain.

Perhaps the sharp increase in property value of Charles Sr.'s landholdings in 1794 reflects the construction of the house at Solitude, the house inhabited by Francis Wingfield on land still owned by his father.

By 1841, Francis Wingfield was a recorded landholder with 582½ acres. By 1849 he had lost 100 of those acres. Francis Wingfield died in 1863 having apparently made no provision for a will. His belongings were inventoried in that year by his son Thomas and the list suggests a prosperous farm with 16 slaves, a wagon, 10 sheep, 3 horses, 2 yoke of oxen, a bull, 2 cows, and 18 hogs. The farm had produced oats, corn, wheat, and pork. A gin and loom suggest home industry. Furniture, a clock, crockery, kitchen ware, tin safe, and chest complete the list.<sup>4</sup>

The 482½ acre property passed to William J. Simms in 1870, after an apparent legal conflict between Wingfield and others and Francis' oldest daughter, Mary<sup>5</sup> (Order Book #1597, Gentry versus Wingfield, 27 October 1870). The Simms family Bible in the possession of Harold Sinclair contains an entry dated 7 October 1867 in which William Simms records the purchase of 401½ acres at \$12.00 an acre. The Albemarle County Land Books of 1854-1866 reveal that at Francis Wingfield's death in 1863, he owned 482½ acres. In

1864, no entry is recorded for Francis. In 1865, however, Francis is listed once again, but this time with only 401½ acres. Simms is not listed as a landowner in the Scottsville District of Albemarle County (Est. 1869) until 1870 when he acquires 401½ from "Frank Wingfield's Est." The deed in which Simms finally takes title to the land in 1870 involves the full 482½ acres. It is not clear then, just exactly when the Simms family first inhabited the house at Solitude. A period of 3 years passed between Simms' first purchase of 401½ acres and the deed transfer in 1870 for 482½ acres.

William J. Simms died in 1884. Prior to his death, he had sold off significant portions of the farm to area freed blacks.<sup>6</sup> His will written in the same year, provided for the ultimate disposition of the farm to the John W. Sinclair family, then living with the Simms according to John Wingfield's son, Harold, who owns and occupies the house today (WB 29-486). William J. Simms' wife, Sarah Ann, was Harold's grandmother, Sallie Margaret (Yaeger) Sinclairs', aunt, thus a familial relationship.<sup>7</sup> The Sinclair family apparently arrived in Albemarle County from Loudin County in 1836.<sup>8</sup>

The Sinclair family improved the property in a flurry of repairs and alterations between 1890 and 1924. One Sinclair, an aunt, operated a general store out of a single pen log dwelling near the house until 1900. The following is a list of repairs and alterations made to the house and farm by the Sinclair family

between 1890 and 1924:

1890: Cattle/horse barn constructed. Beaded oak weatherboarding on north facade of house replaced with pine.

1910: Replacement of window on south facade of house with 12" lights. Enlargement of pantry window on north facade of house.

1915: Wagon shed constructed. Composition roof installed on house.

1924: Concrete slab porch installed on east facade of house. Hearth in east room of house replaced with concrete slab. Original condition unknown.

The major yard vegetation, Ash, Walnut trees, and American Boxwoods were planted at the turn of the century. Well digging was attempted early in the twentieth century but was unsuccessful.<sup>9</sup>

John W. Sinclair died in 1951. His wife, Blanche Sinclair, died in 1957. Harold Sinclair, an only child, inherited the farm by affidavit. Mr. Sinclair no longer farms his land, but rents most of it to pasture. Over the years he has progressively abandoned rooms in the house and now lives only in the east room, utilizing the kitchen for cooking and the living room for sleeping. The rooms abandoned are much as he left them. Antique furniture and material culture fill the house. Artifacts from the Simms era can be found

in the attic including basketry, loom and spinning wheel parts, clothing, and books. Portraits of family members adorn the two main rooms including that of "Uncle Billie Simms." A silver inlaid flintlock musket and Civil War saber with an 1863 foundry date rest above the door to the kitchen from the parlor. Much of the house's material culture is of museum quality. It is likely this body of artifacts will be dispersed upon Mr. Sinclair's death. He has never married and there is no one to continue inhabiting the house which has never been wired or plumbed.



NOTES

1. Rev. Edgar Woods, History of Albemarle County, Virginia (1901). Reprinted by C. J. Carrier Company, Harrisonburg, Virginia (1978) pp. 331, 345.
2. Ibid, p. 345.
3. Albemarle County, Land Book, 1782-1795 on microfilm, Alderman Library, University of Virginia, VI reel 6.
4. Albemarle County, Inventory and Accounts, #27-144, 1863. (Albemarle County Clerk of Circuit Court Room).
5. Albemarle County, Chancery Court Order Book #1597 (Albemarle Court Clerk of Circuit Court Room).
6. Harold Sinclair, Personal Communication, 1982.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.

CHAIN OF TITLE

The following is a reconstruction of property ownership. Deed and will records can be found in the Albemarle County Clerk of Circuit Court Room. The search for clues and information needed to fill gaps in the record were derived from Chancery Court Order Books and Inventory and Accounts records for the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, both located in the same archive above. Rev. Edgar Woods account of the History of Albemarle County, Virginia (1900) was utilized as well as the Simms family Bible in the possession of Mr. Harold Sinclair. Mrs. Elizabeth Caine of Charlottesville, Virginia provided information on early Wingfield history. Land Books on microfilm at Alderman Library, University of Virginia and at the County Clerk of Circuit Court Room revealed changes in land ownership. Early Surveyor's Books in the same location yield no plats.

1731 Charles Hudson of Hanover County receives a patent for 540 acres on the west side of the Carters Mountain portion of the great Southwest Mountain (Woods, p. 3).

1762 Mary Wingfield of Hanover County, wife of John Wingfield and daughter of Charles Hudson, conveys part of Hudson's patent named Prospect to her son Charles; land upon which Charles was then living (Woods, pp. 231 and 345).

1803, December 5 WB 4-138

Charles Wingfield to devisees

"Item, I will and bequethe to my son  
Francis Wingfield to him and his heirs  
forever the plantation whereon I now  
live after the death of his mother . . ."

1870, November 16 DB 65-543

Grantor: Thomas Wood

Grantee: William J. Simms

"Whereas by decree of the Circuit Court of  
Albemarle County pronounced at a special  
term of said court, on the 27th day of  
October, 1870, in a chancery suit pending  
in said court, in the name of Gentry &  
wife against Wingfield & others, it was  
adjudged, ordered and decreed that Thomas  
Wood be, and he was thereby appointed a  
special commissioner whose duty it should  
be to convey to William J. Simms, by deed  
with special warranty, and at the costs  
of the said Simms, the title to the tract  
of land in the bill and proceedings  
mentioned and supposed to contain about  
482 acres, the same being the tract of

## Solitude

HABS No. VA-1074

land of which the late Francis Wingfield died, seized and possessed."

1884, November 3    WB 29-486

William J. Simms to devisees

"First, I give to my wife Sarah Ann Simms the farm on which I reside . . . At her death I wish all the property both real and personal to go to John W. Sinclair son of George C. Sinclair and grandson of Mrs. Ann Sinclair. And in case John William Sinclair dies without a child or children, I want the property all to go to his mother Sallie Margaret Sinclair and her other children."

1951                    Death of Harold Sinclair's father, John W. Sinclair. No will recorded or probated.

1957                    Death of Harold Sinclair's mother, Blanche (Stevens) Sinclair. No will recorded or probated.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

## General Description

The house at Solitude is a heavy-timber frame, one and a half story folk dwelling with a gable and shed roof. Weatherboarded and whitewashed, the house retains two brick chimneys on the east facade. A stone chimney formerly stood on the west facade.

A product of accretionary development, the house began as a single pen, story and a half, unwhitewashed building with a single stone chimney. The house was probably constructed in the last quarter of the eighteenth century. Measuring 19' 9" long by 16' 3" wide and 20' 2" in height, the original single pen was finished with beaded oak weatherboarding and a box cornice.

By 1807, the house had doubled in size with the addition of a half-timbered and brick-nogged east room to the east facade of the original pen. Two rear shed rooms were added separately at an unknown time, but probably closely following, or contemporary with, the east room.

The building and grounds underwent several renovations and alterations between 1890 and 1924, including replacement of weatherboards, portions of flooring, and two windows in the house. Two log buildings, a story and a half single pen dwelling and kitchen in the yard were demolished and several support buildings constructed.

### Exterior Description

Overall Dimensions: The house measures 36' 5" along the east-west axis and 26' 4-5" on the north-south axis. The south porch measures 29' 9" along its north-south axis, 7' 10" east-west. The apex of the roof measures 20' 8" from the bottom of the first weatherboard above an irregular foundation and ground level. The original single pen house measured 19' 9" on its east-west axis and 16' 3" on the north-south axis.

Foundation: The foundation consists of unmortared, uncoursed field rubble of local origin. The height of the foundation varies: northeast corner = 2", northwest corner = 10", southwest corner = 26", and the southeast corner = 9".

Exterior Wall Sheathing: The heavy timber frame skeleton of the walls is covered with horizontal weatherboarding. Beaded oak boards predominate with an exposure ranging from 5"-7" including the  $\frac{1}{2}$ " bead. Very weathered, and possibly very old, poplar weatherboarding occurs in the west gable while unbeaded pine replacements dominate the north facade (1890 replacements). All surfaces are whitewashed, not painted. Former exterior wall surfaces enclosed by house additions are surfaced with whitewashed beaded weatherboard of 5"-7" exposure

and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " bead. Two isolated surfaces of unwhitewashed beaded oak weatherboarding occur on former exterior surfaces in the attic. The current resident, Mr. Harold Sinclair continues the practice of mixing and applying whitewash.

Structural System: The framing of the original single pen is probably post and stud with corner downbracing. Nail patterns on the south facade suggest an average stud spacing of 11 inches. The roof structure over this portion of the house consists of 4" x 3" rafters spanned by purlin posts. The upstairs bedrooms are gambrel shaped because of this. No ridge pole is present at the ridge line which can be viewed but not reached. Upstairs floor joists are 6" thick beams.

The east room is constructed of unsheathed post and stud with plank downbracing and brick in-fill. Posts measure 5" to 10" wide depending on exposure; studs measure 3" wide; downbracing planks varying between 9" and 17" in width. Roofing over this room, which abuts the original single pen system, is similar to the older unit with 5" x 3" rafters, purlins, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " purlin posts notched to receive the rafters. Upstairs floor joists comprise the exposed beam ceiling of the downstairs room and measure

3½" x 6" with beading on two edges. Mortise and tenon, pegged joinery characterizes the downstairs half timbered construction.

The rear shed additions were constructed in two parts. Both are scabbed on to the main body of the house. The construction system of the west shed room attached to the original single pen appears to be post and stud with corner downbracing as viewed through displaced weatherboarding on the exterior northwest corner. The system comprising the rear addition to the east room is unknown. The shed attached to the single pen is scabbed lower on to the roof than the east unit, and consists of 5" x 3½" rafters resting on a rear plate. This addition has a dropped ceiling occurring 43" below the cornice line of the old pen. The second rear shed consists of 4½" x 3" rafters notched into 3" x 4" joists. The ceiling of this room is only 8" lower than the cornice line of the half timbered east room.

Porches: Two porches remain on the house. A third porch formerly sheltered the back door but deteriorated off. The porch sheltering the east door was constructed of slab concrete and shed roof supported by unfinished red cedar posts in 1924.



The largest porch spans the eastern three quarters of the south facade and shelters the two south doorways. This porch is raised upon low stone piers and is floored in 3/4" thick, random width floorboards. The shed roof is scabbed on to the house above the box cornice line and was formerly supported by locally made chamfered posts, only two of which remain at each corner against the house. Unfinished red cedar posts replaced the original chamfered members across the front of the porch before 1950. Pegged joinery is present at the juncture of the west chamfered post and western roof end girt. The porch is in a severely deteriorated condition and has been repaired frequently. No railing is present.

Chimneys: Formerly, a stone chimney existed on the west facade, but was destroyed by high winds in 1954. An early photograph of the dwelling illustrates a finely laid chimney of small, regular stones forming sharp corners and resting upon a massive stone base. The chimney shoulders are regularly tapered to a relatively short stack set back away from the house wall and rising above the roof apex. Weatherboarding repairs suggest a width of approximately 4'-5".

Two brick Tidewater chimneys occur on the east facade,

both of 7 course American bond, both with corbeled shoulders and caps with stacks set back 5" from the side of the house. The smaller of the two services the kitchen and measures 4' 5" wide and 2' deep. Measuring 19' 10" in height, the kitchen chimney has an 8 course corbelled shoulder. The larger chimney services the brick nogged east room and measures 6' 2" wide by 2' deep. Its total height measures 25' 6" including a 12 course corbelled shoulder.

Windows: Windows are unshuttered and no evidence was present which would suggest the presence of shutters in the past. With the exception of the window on the south facade in the original single pen, downstairs windows consist of six over six lights, 9" x 10", and sliding lower sash. The parlor window on the east facade has been affected by severe settling of the southeast corner of the house and has been repaired to re-achieve plumb. The lower sash is historic however, with 3/4" muntins, similar to the two kitchen windows in the shed room addition. A pantry window was once as small as the upstairs gable windows, being part of the shed room addition to the original single pen. It was enlarged in 1910.

Solitude HABS No. VA-1074

Upstairs windows (one in each gable end) are small, measuring 1' 6" wide by 3' high. Consisting of two over four lights measuring 9" x 10" the windows were originally constructed with removable lower sashes. The east window has been altered in order that the lower sash hinges out instead of removing entirely. This window has 5/8" attenuated muntins in the upper sash and 1 1/4" broad muntins in the lower. Both upstairs windows are of pegged construction.

Roof: The roofs over the original single pen and the east room addition slope at a 48°-49°. The separate roofs over the rear shed room additions slope at 30°-31°. Original horizontal beveled plank roofing still remains on the north slope of both roofs over the single pen and east room. The roofing was attached with chisel point, wrought nails. The roof edge over the still intact box cornice of the north facade of the single pen dwelling had been finished with a horizontal beaded trim. The two separate shed roofs over the rear room additions were finished with shakes which still remain under a composition roof installed in 1915. These shingles were attached with cut nails.

The north facade is notable for a decorative molding tucked under the shed roof overhang across the entire

length of the facade. The molding was apparently installed to seal the juncture of the wall below and the roof above. Glassie illustrates similar treatment of the underside of a box cornice of a house dating after 1752. The treatment was apparently common on small houses in middle Virginia and reveals an element of "elegance" on such a small house.<sup>1</sup>

## NOTES

1. Henry Glassie, Folk Housing in Middle Virginia, The Univirsity of Tennessee Press, 1975: 150.

### Interior Description

Floor Plan: The overall ground floor plan of the existing house is rectangular. Two main rooms of rectangular shape flank a central wall and are connected by a single doorway located under the second flight of a corner stairway. Two lesser rooms, a kitchen and a dining room are separated by a partitioned pantry with cross circulation and are laid off the main rooms. Two front doorways allowing access to the two main rooms are matched by opposite doorways leading from each room to the lesser rooms in the rear. A doorway leads from the dining room to the outside on the same axis with the door on the front leading to the main western room. A side door on axis with the pantry door allows access to the kitchen from the east yard.

The overall plan for the upstairs is a narrow rectangle with two bedrooms flanking a stair hall.

The evolution of the house began with the addition of the east half timbered room and half story to the east facade of the original single pen house. The two shed room additions were added separately, the first attached to the north facade of the original single pen creating an L-shaped floor plan. The second rear shed addition, a kitchen, enclosed whitewashed and weatherboarded

exterior walls of the east room and the first shed room addition.

**Stairway:** The existing stairway is located in the southeast corner of the west room (original single pen), immediately adjacent to the south door. Of two flights, the stair rises to a corner landing and proceeds at a right angle up to the stair hall separating the bedrooms. The stair measures 2' 9" wide with uncomfortably narrow treads of 7½", including a ½" nose, and 7½" risers. The stairway is of simple design however, the existing plain balusters of 2" x 1" slats are not original and have apparently replaced turned balusters several of which were stored in the attic. A single pilaster-like turned post still remains at the stair turn. The stair case is paneled with painted and beaded 7"-8" wide panels and a 10" stringer panel disguises the stair steps. A 6" baseboard is present. The stairway is in good condition. Formerly, a staircase was located in the northeast corner of the east room. Its appearance remains unknown.

**Flooring:** Flooring throughout the house is unvarnished tongue and groove oak floorboards of 4" to 6" width. Three-inch wide replacement flooring occurs in the eastern one third of the kitchen and in all of the east room (parlor).

Solitude HABS No. VA-1074

Hearths in the two main rooms are simple. The east room is of slab concrete with 2" perimeter molding. The west room hearth the same. The kitchen hearth was removed when new flooring was installed.

Wall and Ceiling Finish: Wall finish varies throughout the house. The original single pen dwelling has poor quality, painted wall paper in place and original finish is unknown. The ceiling in this room is unfinished paneling of 7" x 3/4" boards which seal beaded 6" thick beams, suggesting an open ceiling formerly.

Walls in the east room consist of three exposed half-timber walls with brick in-fill. The fourth wall is the beaded oak weatherboarded exterior wall of the original single pen. All walls are whitewashed with a 6" beaded baseboard and chair rail. The ceiling in this room is exposed with beaded 3" x 6" beams, whitewashed. These surfaces are deteriorating.

The lesser rooms to the back of the house are wallpapered and painted. The dining room however retains tongue and grooved, horizontal sheathing under the wallpaper. One wall in this room retains the weatherboarding of the original single pen under the wallpaper. The kitchen also retains beaded weatherboarding under wallpaper on two walls; the former exterior north wall of the east

Solitude      HABS No. VA-1074

room, and, the former exterior east wall of the shed room addition to the single pen. The ceiling of the dining room is 2" board sheathing of early twentieth century vintage. The kitchen is similar, but older with wider (circa 3") board sheathing, unpainted.

The upstairs bedrooms and stair hall are sheathed with a clapboard like surface of hand rived, 4' long, end-tapered boards. The overlap of the sheathing is the reverse of normal weatherboard/clapboard overlap seeming to facilitate water run-off from roof leakage on the attic surface of the sheathing. All surfaces are whitewashed. The condition of these surfaces is poor with flaking whitewash and warped units.

Rusting rose-head nails have come free in many locations.

Doorways and Doors: All doors are of the board and batten type. Battens are beveled and boards are constructed by tongue and groove with bead. Moldings are predominantly plain with single or double edged beading. Several doors have no molding surrounds at all. The south doors to the porch are notable for their simple architrave surrounds present also around the south window. All doors are stained with the exception of the upstairs bedroom doors which are



unfinished, whitewashed kitchen-to-pantry door, and the unfinished kitchen-to-east-yard door.

The kitchen door which leads to the east yard is the narrowest at 1' 7". Doorways in the house are taller in the single pen (81") than in the east room (72"). Door widths are 3' except for the door from the east room to the kitchen which measures 2' 9" wide and the door from the dining room to the north yard which measures the same.

The kitchen door to the east yard is secured with an iron spring bolt and wood drop bar activated by a string attached to the bar and running through a hole to the outside. Iron box locks of late nineteenth century vintage predominate in the house with the exception of the pantry-to-kitchen door which retains a wooden rim lock in excellent condition.

Windows: Most windows are trimmed with beaded surrounds.

Kitchen windows are the exception with plain moldings. The south window, as noted above, is notable for its simple architrave surround.

Interior Trim: Beaded treatment predominates in the house occurring in door and window surrounds, chair rails, overhead beams and door boards. Mantels over the

Solitude HABS No. VA-1074

kitchen and parlor fireplaces are simple 3/4"-1" shelves supported by simple, beveled brackets. The single pen room fireplace is notable for its mantelshelf above a plain frieze and architrave fireplace surround, probably contemporary with the south window and door architrave moldings.

Hardware: Notable historic hardware includes the H-L and L hinges of the pantry to kitchen door and those of the door connecting the upstairs stair hall and east bedroom. All other doors are hung with flat hinges.

Heating and Lighting: The house has never been wired for electricity and the current occupant uses glass kerosene lamps. Heat is provided in the east room by a simple wood burning stove of twentieth century origin. The kitchen is heated by and food cooked on a vintage cast iron stove with an embossed foundry date of 1889, "Richmond Stove Company." A garland surrounded portrait of Robert E. Lee is embossed on either side of the fire compartment and the stove stack is braced by decorative brackets in cast iron with a shelf extending over the pot lid cooking surfaces. Never plumbed, sanitary facilities consist of a privy some distance from the house. Water is obtained from a spring located approximately 300 feet south of the house, and snow melt.

## Site and Surroundings

**Orientation and General Setting:** The house is oriented north to south on a fan-like extension at the base of Carters Mountain at 600' MSL., above the juncture of a small unnamed tributary stream with Sowell Branch, a tributary of the North Fork of the Hardware River. Carters Mountain rises to the east in forest and the house sits in a clear enclave surrounded by forest. Open pasture lands, formerly orchards and fields, comprise the immediate vicinity. The house is approached from the northwest via a deeply cut dirt lane which joins Route 20 approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile away.

**Historic Landscape Design:** The immediate yard area retains vegetative plantings of the early twentieth century including mature ash and walnut trees flanking the approach drive on the north side. Three extremely large American boxwoods, two on the north side of the house flanking the doorway leading from the dining room to the outside, and one, approximately 20 feet southeast of the house with a circumference of 55', remain in the yard. Lilacs occur on either side of the porch and near the ice house northeast of the house. Locust and peach trees are variously located around the house including one very old Black Locust near the garage. Roses and daffodill plantings occur variously. The house, yard

Solitude HABS No. VA-1074

and extended, untended, yard areas are generally enclosed by post and barbed wire field fencing. A once large garden to the southwest is currently only half utilized.

The remnants of a once large peach orchard remain in the pasture northeast of the house. Fourteen rows are discernable, but only 5-6 trees remain. A 10 acre vineyard was once tended on the hillside south of the house.

A graveyard once existed 150' northeast of the house on a low rise. No gravestones remain, but at least 5 gravesites are discernable.

Outbuildings: Six wooden support buildings surround the house. As noted previously, a shed roofed privy measuring 4' 8" square is located in the southeast corner of the garden, 145' southwest of the house. A subterranean root cellar/ ice house measuring 9' 4" x 8' 5" exists 25' northeast of the house under a planted walnut tree. In poor condition, the pit of the structure is collapsing and the shake roof, gabled and resting directly on the ground, is deteriorating. A roof shed with shed roof carport in good condition and measuring 18' 7" x 12' 7" stands 40' east of the house in the yard on the site of a log kitchen. The tool shed with gable

roof was constructed in 1912. A poultry house measuring 10' 4" x 12' 5" stands immediately behind the tool shed and pre-dates 1899. Gable-roofed with roost boxes protruding from the sides near the ground the poultry house is in very poor condition. A wagon shed stands 150' southeast of the house and measures 21' 6" x 14' 10". Constructed in 1915 the building has a gable roof and wide opening on the long side. A barn measuring 30' 7" x 36' stands 250' southeast of the house and was constructed in 1890. The latter two support buildings are in good condition. All support buildings are of oak or poplar.

Formerly, a log single pen, story and a half dwelling stood 50' southeast of the house. Dismantled in 1915, the dwelling was weatherboarded and fronted west. The current occupant, Mr. Sinclair, recalls two windows downstairs on the front and one small window upstairs, presumably in the south gable end where a stone chimney once stood.

Harold Sinclair recalls that slave cabins once stood near the house, but had disappeared either before his birth in 1899 or while he was too young to remember. The documents support the presence of slaves during Wingfield times.

PROJECT INFORMATION

This documentation was produced at the School of Architecture of the University of Virginia under the direction of K. Edward Lay, Professor of Architecture, during the Spring Semester, 1982. The material was prepared by Cathleen Ganzel, Graduate Student in Architectural History, and was donated to the Historic American Buildings Survey. Ms. Ganzel had had previous HABS experience in association with the Tennessee-Tombigbee project in Mississippi and Tennessee, a project co-sponsored by the Historic American Buildings Survey and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.